



Dear Saint Margaret Mary School parents,

Next week, we celebrate **National Catholic Schools Week!** The week-long event will begin with a SMMS 'Welcome Mass' on Sunday, January 31st. We have a whole week of activities planned to demonstrate what our students are accomplishing and to celebrate the community we've built to educate tomorrow's citizens and church leaders. Saint Margaret Mary School delivers a superior Catholic education focusing on faith development, academic excellence and dedication to service. These elements set Catholic schools apart from other educational options. This is why families make sacrifices to provide a Catholic education to their children.

Yet, 'Catholic Schools Week,' is also an opportunity for us to welcome prospective families in to SMMS. I am very proud of our school, and I look forward to inviting new families to our **Open House on January 31st from 8:00-1:00 p.m.** Please encourage your friends and neighbors, particularly those who may be thinking about Catholic education for their children, Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 8th, to stop by.

During this celebration of our school, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our teachers, staff, administrators, board members, parents and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to our school. As principal, I am blessed for the support all of you have given me.

Last Week's News

Last week, the children received a 'three day weekend' due to **National Martin Luther King Day**. Teachers took the time out of their busy curriculum schedules to teach about this Civil Rights hero who dedicated his life so that all American citizens can live freely and equally. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students took their 2nd quarter **Finals exams**. The purpose of these tests is to make a final review of the topics covered and assessment of each student's knowledge of the subject. Congratulations JR. HIGH STUDENTS for a job well done! On Friday, our 5th and 8th graders took their annual **ACRE TESTS**. The ACRE test is administered to students in 5th and 8th grade. The acronym stands for **Assessment of Catechesis/Religious Education**. This test is published by the NCEA (National Catholic Educational Association) and is an assessment based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the most recent catechetical documents. The test is quite important to our staff because the results are used to evaluate the effectiveness of a religion program. Next month our faculty will meet to discuss the results.

Week Ahead News

Next week- **Monday** (JANUARY 24TH) is a half day. Our faculty and staff will gather together to discuss a variety of school issues. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss day-to-day school activities. Things such as school trip dates, school calendar changes, dress regulations, and behavior problems will be on the top of our agenda tomorrow.

On **Tuesday**, our children will begin their third round of **STAR TESTING**. STAR assessments provide teachers the most valid, reliable, actionable data of their students. These tests empowers our teachers to focus on what matters most—individualizing instruction to accelerate learning for all students.

On **Thursday**, report cards will be go home in the Family Folder. While it's true that we typically pass out Family Folders on Wednesday, this week we will distribute folders on Thursday so that we may enclose report cards.

Save the date for two exciting Saint Margaret Mary School events on **FEBRUARY 6TH**

GRANDPARENTS DAY – come join us for a morning of food and fun as we pay tribute to our wonderful grandparents.

FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE - There's nothing like the bond between a father and his little girl. A father-daughter dance is an opportunity for fathers to escort their little girl to what is likely their very first dance. Tickets on sale now!

Have a wonderful week!

God bless,

Mrs. Zimmerman